REMARKS

In paragraph 1, the drawings were objected to for the failure to show a piezoelectric actuator is allegedly claimed in claims 6 and 8. To the contrary, neither claim calls for a piezoelectric actuator. They call for a piezoelectric device. A piezoelectric device is shown at 12 in the figures and described in the specification *inter alia* at page 3, lines 3-7.

Therefore, reconsideration is requested.

Further, the specification is objected to as failing to teach a piezoelectric device. A piezoelectric device is taught on page 3, lines 3-7. Controlling the voltage applied to said piezoelectric device is explained at page 2, line 23, through page 3, line 2.

With respect to the objection to claim 6, the optical system is not actually claimed. It is only inferentially referenced. Thus, there is no need to show it.

The same point relates to claim 8.

In claim 9, the device to tunably stress is, in the illustrated embodiment, the element 12 and the voltage source 14. The voltage source to control the amount of voltage applied to enable dispersion is the voltage source 14.

Therefore, reconsideration of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

With respect to the objection to claims 9-11 that they fail to describe essential structural relationships, the device tunably stresses the photoelastic medium. Thus, its relationship to the photoelastic medium is clearly described. For example, the device could be the voltage source 14 in one embodiment.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize the concept of tunability with respect to the dispersion compensation. The cited reference does not teach a tunable dispersion compensation system. As explained in the background, in the last paragraph, the extended dispersion that may be induced at any instance may be variable through the optical medium. It may change as a function of temperature, wavelength, change in a communication length and other criteria. Thus, a fixed dispersion compensation is of relatively limited usefulness.

That is precisely what the cited reference teaches. It teaches a piezoelectric actuator which is either on or off. See paragraphs 47 and 48 of that reference. Since the device is either on or off, it is, therefore, not tunable to adjust for different levels of non-zero dispersion.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been amended to call for applying a tunable voltage to induce a tunable stress to tunably correct dispersion. Based on the analysis above, claim 6, as amended, distinguishes over the reference.

Likewise, claim 9 has been amended.

Similarly, claim 12 has been amended to recite "tunably" and to remove the actuator language which, apparently, was objectionable. In other words, there is nothing in the reference that tunably applies stress to tunably correct varying levels of dispersion in said medium.

Further, claim 15 calls for a system to provide a tunable magnitude and polarity of dispersion to cancel generated dispersion. No such structure is anywhere shown in the cited reference.

In view of these remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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